

What is claimed is:

1 1. An improved hands-free speakerphone for use with a communications system,
2 said speakerphone comprising:
3 a speaker element;
4 a housing for enclosing the speaker element; and
5 at least one anti-sealing speaker port formed in the housing to permit sound
6 generated by the speaker element to be passed therethrough.

1 2. The hands-free speakerphone of claim 1, wherein the housing comprises an outer
2 surface portion surrounding the at least one speaker port, the outer surface portion possessing
3 sufficient curvature so as to reduce the risk that the outer surface portion including the at least
4 one speaker port can be sealed against the ear of a user placing the at least one speaker port
5 proximate the user's ear.

1 3. The hands-free speakerphone of claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a front
2 portion and a back portion that adjoins along a parting line in a fixed relationship when the
3 hands-free speakerphone is assembled for use, the at least one speaker port being located
4 proximate to the parting line.

1 4. The hands-free speakerphone of claim 3, wherein the at least one speaker port is
2 formed on an inner surface of the parting line.

1 5. The hands-free speakerphone of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of speaker
2 ports formed in the housing in a spaced relationship relative to each other.

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1 6. The hands-free speakerphone of claim 5, wherein the spaced relationship includes
2 sufficient spatial separation between speaker ports to reduce the risk that the housing can be
3 sealed against the ear of the user.

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1 7. The hands-free speakerphone of claim 6, further comprising a parting line formed
2 along the exterior of the housing, and wherein the at least some of the plurality of speaker ports
3 are formed proximate to the parting line.

1 8. The hands-free speakerphone of claim 7, wherein the housing comprises a first
2 portion and a second portion and the parting line is formed at the juncture of the first housing
3 portion and the second housing portion.

1 9. The hands-free speakerphone of claim 1, wherein the speaker element is held in a
2 substantially fixed orientation with respect to the at least one speaker port, the at least one
3 speaker port being formed in a surface of the housing that is oriented such that the sound
4 produced by the speaker element must be reflected off at least one interior surface prior to
5 reaching the housing surface in which the speaker part is formed.

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1 10. The hands-free speakerphone of claim 9, further comprising an acoustical element
2 for redirecting sound generated by the speaker element toward the at least one speaker port.

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1 11. The hands-free speakerphone of claim 10, wherein the acoustic element is
2 integrally formed with the housing.

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1 12. The hands-free speakerphone of claim 10, further comprising a liquid crystal
2 display (LCD), and wherein LCM forms at least part of the acoustical element.

1 13. A hands-free speakerphone for use in connection with a telephone
2 communications system, the hands-free speaker comprising a housing having a first housing
3 portion and a second housing portion that, when assembled, retain a speaker element in a
4 substantially fixed relationship with respect to the assembled housing, the housing forming at
5 least one speaker port having a position and orientation such that sound produced by the speaker
6 element reaches the at least one speaker port substantially indirectly, the at least one speaker port
7 being formed on a curved surface of the housing, the curved surface of the housing possessing
8 sufficient curvature to avoid a seal being formed between the speakerphone and the ear of a user
9 placing the at least one speaker port proximate to the ear.

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1 14. The hands-free speakerphone of claim 13 further comprising a parting line formed
2 on an exterior surface of the housing, wherein the at least one speaker port is located proximate
3 the parting line.

1 15. The hands-free speakerphone of claim 14, wherein the parting line is formed
2 along the juncture of the first housing portion and the second housing portion.

- 1 16. The hands-free speakerphone of claim 13, further comprising a plurality of
- 2 speaker ports formed in the housing.

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